

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-13

DPW-01 AID-20 OMB-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /116 W

----- 044604

R 090835 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2925

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: TRI QUANG SPEAKS OUT ON "THIRD ELEMENT" OF NCNRC AND
INVOLUNTARY RELEASE OF PRISONERS TO COMMUNISTS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. THE VENERABLE TRI QUANG, A SENIOR MONK IN THE AN QUANG
PAGODA AND FORMER ANTI-ADMINISTRATION ACTIVIST, HAS REENTERED
THE POLITICAL ARENA WITH SEPARATE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE
"THIRD FORCE" IN THE NCNRC AND THE IMPENDING INVOLUNTARY
RELEASE OF SOME PRISONERS TO THE LIBERATION FRONT. THE
STATEMENTS WERE RELEASED JUNE 7, AND HAVE APPEARED IN SUMMARY
FORM IN THE LOCAL PRESS.

2. IN ONE STATEMENT, TRI QUANG CALLS FOR PARTICIPATION IN
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THE NCNRC BY AN INDEPENDENT THIRD FORCE, NOT ONE SELECTED BY "THE TWO SIDES". HE STATES THAT "THE TWO SIDES" SHOULD ONLY AGREE ON THE PROCEDURES BY WHICH THE THIRD ELEMENT IS SELECTED. HE ADDS THAT "THIS BEING THE CASE, THOSE PERSONS WHO RELY ON FOREIGNERS FOR SELECTION NO LONGER CAN BE CONSIDERED ON THE SIDE OF THE PEOPLE". (THE ORIGINAL TEXT REFERRED TO "AMERICANS" BUT THIS WAS SCRATCHED OUT AND THE WORD "FOREIGNERS" SUBSTITUTED.)

3. IN TRI QUANG'S VIEW, THE THIRD ELEMENT CAN ACT AS A MEDIATOR TO HELP THE TWO SIDES ACHIEVE RECONCILIATION AND SETTLE THEIR DISPUTES. HE PREDICTS THAT IF THE PEOPLE WERE FACED WITH AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT, "DISCONTENT AND OPPOSITION" WOULD ENSUE WHETHER THE DECISION WERE GOOD OR BAD. THIS, HE OBSERVES, "WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE OF ANY BENEFIT TO THE COUNTRY."

4. IN A SECOND STATEMENT, TRI QUANG ASSERTED THAT THE INVOLUNTARY RELEASE OF PRISONERS TO THE LIBERATION FRONT IS UNJUST. HE CALLS ON THE "HIGHEST LEVELS IN THE ADMINISTRATION" TO ATTEND TO THE ISSUE IN ORDER TO REVERSE THE DECISION. HE SUGGESTS THAT IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER TO RELEASE THESE PEOPLE TO THEIR FAMILIES OR THE ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH THEY BELONG. HE CITES PARTICULARLY THOSE BUDDHIST FOLLOWERS WHO WERE FALSELY CHARGED BECAUSE OF THEIR STRUGGLES FOR PEACE OR IN DEFENSE OF THE FAITH. HE ADDS THAT THE PEACE AGREEMENT CALLS FOR THEIR FORGIVENESS.

5. COMMENT: TRI QUANG WAS NOT SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF AN QUANG, BUT HIS COMMENTS WILL BE INTERPRETED BY MANY TO MEAN THAT THIS CENTRAL VIET-NAM BASED SECT IS MOVING AWAY FROM ITS SELF-IMPOSED POLICY OF NON-COMMITTAL COMMENT ON CONTROVERSIAL POLITICAL ISSUES. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL REACTION, IT IS CLEAR THAT TRI QUANG'S STATEMENT WILL NOT BE WELCOMED BY THE ADMINISTRATION. AS RECENTLY AS JUNE 5, AN OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN REASSERTED THE GVN POSITION THAT THERE IS NO THIRD ELEMENT IN SVN, BUT ONLY COMMUNISTS AND NATIONALISTS. TRI QUANG'S STATEMENT THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE "THIRD ELEMENT" IN THE NCNRC SHOULD NOT BE SELECTED BY THE "TWO SIDES" IS CONTRARY TO REPORTED ADMINISTRATION PREFERENCE. ONE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT'S PEOPLE'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRONT FOR PEACE AND NATIONAL SELF-DETERMINATION WAS REPORTEDLY TO NOMINATE NAMES FOR THE "PRO-NATIONALIST" HALF OF THE THIRD ELEMENT.
WHITEHOUSE

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